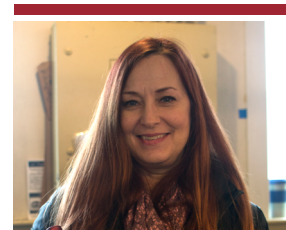
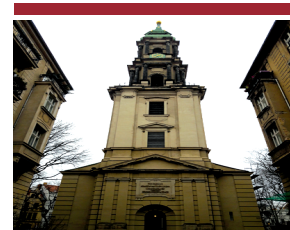




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Sally Jewell announced as commencement speaker



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Making connections with Humans of Puget Sound project



FEATURES, PAGE 7  
In Berlin, churches bear the stamp of their Cold War history



# CHWS EXPANDS TREATMENT HOURS TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS' COUNSELING NEEDS

By Ayden Bolin

Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services (CHWS) at the University of Puget Sound has recently improved its mental health services and significantly reduced their wait times.

In an email sent to the community, CHWS stated that due to an increase in staffing, Monday through Friday from 1–4 p.m., a student can walk in and be seen within 30 minutes, and from there, can be referred to one of the CHWS counselors, a support group, medical evaluations or an off-campus counselor.

"This new system means that the wait time for an initial counseling appointment this fall was down to an average of under 7 work days, compared to an average wait of over two weeks last spring in 2017," the email from CHWS stated.

According to Donn Marshall, head of CHWS, the service is a "combined primary care and mental health department." It does not have any immediate equipment for emergency first response, however.

CHWS has three full-time, licensed psychologists, and three doctoral interns, according to Marshall.

"In the last two years, we've been able to add 1.5 full-time staff to the mental health staff. We are counting in one half-time psychologist, just three days a week, in addition to the three full time, and that feels like it has created some breathing

room," Marshall said.

The increased staffing at CHWS is one of the biggest pieces of assistance in reducing the wait times for mental health appointments. Now with the increase in staffing, the service is able to accommodate more students every day. A big part of this improvement was due to representatives from the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS).

"The entire reason I ran was to try to do something about CHWS wait times," Junior Class Senator Jack Aldisert said. "Basically, I started with the most general goal possible, which was to first find out about why mental health care is the way it is, and second, to generally see if there was anything I could do to improve mental health care on campus or to improve at least CHWS' reputation among the students."

Another way that CHWS has cut wait times has been the new "triage system," which institutes open screening hours Monday through Friday from 1–4 p.m., where at least one staff member is doing intakes on students, according to Marshall.

"So the person who wakes up that morning and says, 'I think I need to see a counselor,' they're gonna see somebody that day, or at worst if it is really full that day then [...] it might be the next day, but that rollover hasn't happened this

semester," Marshall said.

According to Marshall, the "triage system" is a first-come-first-serve system, where the psychology staff administers an initial screening that takes roughly 20 minutes. The goal is not to begin therapy, but to gather details that show what the best means of treatment may be. Of the screening appointments, 70 to 80 percent result in a referral to an intake.

"If I saw you this afternoon and we agreed that [...] you might work well with one of our psychology staff, we would schedule you for a full-hour appointment. In the intake, you would be sitting down with a person who, in all probability, if you are to continue counseling here, you are most likely to see. You would begin unpacking in a lot more detail what was going on for you, so unpacking history, if depression or anxiety or substance abuse are among the things that are of concern to you, about what is going on for you now. We would be asking about the family histories of these things," Marshall said.

While these improvements are significant and much needed, CHWS still has a physical limitation of space that prevents it from expanding further. Currently, the service is located on the second floor of Wheelock Student Center.

"Frankly, we are beyond capacity in terms of space, so, two part-time staff members

who are practicum students completing master's degrees in their programs, and we literally do not have a room for them to come in to see students in, so one day a week, I vacate this office to a practicum student and I work from an alternate office outside of CHWS. So, coming up in the next three or so years, my hope and prediction is that there will be a different CHWS facility," Marshall said.

The immediacy of service in regard to changes in CHWS services is a helpful step in addressing mental health issues in the student body population.

"That's what's so great about the triage, even if it's a super short, 20 minute conversation. It's so much better than nothing, than you wait those 11 days, as opposed to last year, where at this same time last year, when you went in for the first time, you'd go in and you wouldn't get to talk to anybody, you would talk to the scheduler and be told to come back in five weeks, and then all your hope just kinda goes down the drain," Aldisert said.

To make an appointment with CHWS, visit their office, or call (253) 879-1555. Their hours are Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, then from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon, then from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

# Seattle REACH program advocates for drug consumption sites

By Sarah Buchlaw

Seattle is on its way to founding this country's first "drug consumption site" after months of lobbying. Fully comprehending the importance of this decision requires basic information on the opioid epidemic, who it affects and what exactly sites like these are.

According to American Addiction Centers (AAC), opiates are drugs directly derived from opium plants, such as heroin and morphine, while opioids are synthetic drugs like oxycodone that mimic the pain-relieving effects of traditional opiates. The term "opioid" is what most people use to describe both kinds of drugs these days, according to the AAC.

"Increased prescription of opioid medications led to widespread misuse of both prescription and non-prescription opioids before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive," the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports on the origins of today's opioid epidemic.

The epidemic yielded 42,000 opioid overdose-related deaths in 2016 alone, which prompted HHS to declare a public health emergency in 2017.

Shortly before the HHS emergency declaration, King County joined the conversation on the opioid epidemic by convening the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task Force.

Chloe Gale, co-director of the Seattle REACH program and member of the task force, provided more information on the task force and her organization.

The REACH program works to support people living on the street, especially those using substances, through "street outreach, intensive care management and clinical treatment services," Gale said.

All REACH programs operate with the goal of "harm reduction," meaning participants do not have to abstain from using drugs to access resources.

"People still now believe that shame and stigma stop people from using drugs, but in fact, in my experience, shame and stigma can really contribute ... to active drug use and ... it pushes people away from the services that we really want them to engage in," Gale said.

The task force that Gale worked with offered eight official recommendations to state officials, with a goal similar to that of REACH: to reduce harm, rather than further stigmatize opioid use. Examples of the task force's initiatives include more widespread distribution of Narcan (nasal spray version of naloxone, an emergency overdose reversal medication) to affected communities, and making Buprenorphine (medication that treats

opioid addiction) more accessible to those seeking treatment.

Perhaps the most controversial recommendation from the task force was to create two or more Community Health Engagement Locations (CHEL sites), also referred to as safe consumption sites or supervised injection sites. Safe consumption sites, usually geared especially toward people experiencing homelessness and using opioids, have been successfully operating for decades

still in the preliminary stage. The model, though, is similar to the one used by Insite and Getaway. The CHEL would include medical supervision, access to clean needles, and various support and treatment services, Gale said.

Regarding pushback in response to the CHEL proposal, Gale brought up Initiative 27, a proposal by King County residents whose slogan is "Safe King County." Last October, the group published a model ordinance banning the

but explained that the intention is to put the CHEL in a community already experiencing "a high volume of active drug use."

"We see it as serving a community that would already have an existing drug use concern, and so this would help mediate that. And that's what we've seen around the world, is that when they've opened facilities, they typically have done it in places where people are already using, and it really goes a long way to mitigate some of the concerns we see about outdoor use like needles being left outside or people using in a dirty space," Gale said.

Gale's claims are supported by expansive evidence of drug consumption sites' positive effects, as well as evidence showing no significant adverse effects on communities.

According to the International Network of Drug Consumption Rooms (INDCR), the community surrounding Insite has seen a 35 percent decrease in overdose deaths, as well as "a 30 percent increase in the use of detoxification programmes among Insite clients." The website also notes that the neighborhood has seen a substantial reduction in public drug use, needle-sharing and other "HIV risk behavior," and HIV infections.

Further data from the INDCR shows that none of the consumption sites in Canada, Germany, or Australia have seen a single overdose fatality.

The bottom line is that our country's opioid epidemic remains persistent and deadly. Clearly, the traditional "stigmatize addicts to make them seek treatment" is neither an accurate nor adequate method for reform, which is why Gale feels a CHEL is important:

"The intention is to ... create a ... sense of hospitality and dignity for people," Gale said. "We want people to feel like their lives are valued and restore their sense of self-worth and help them feel ... loved."

If you're interested in the many programs REACH offers, visit <http://www.etsreach.org/>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY Photo pictures syringe, often used to inject opioids.

in several countries, including Canada, Germany and Australia.

The Vancouver Coastal Health website explains how Vancouver's two supervised injection sites (the only two in North America) operate. Exempted from federal drug laws, the sites called Insite and Powell Street Getaway allow clients to inject or use their drugs at private booths in a common room.

Staff monitor clients for possible overdose, reverse any overdose that does happen with naloxone, teach safer using practices and offer access to treatment and counseling services. According to Vancouver Coastal Health, the three primary goals of safe injection/consumption sites are:

"They help prevent people from transmitting infectious diseases. They encourage marginalized people to access health care services, including primary care and addiction treatment. They bring stability to the community by improving public order and reducing the number of injections taking place on the street."

Since the task force's proposed CHEL was approved just last year, planning is

funding of safe consumption sites and petitioned to put it on a November ballot, the Seattle Times reported. The King County Superior Court Judge ultimately ruled against putting that ordinance to any public vote, so CHEL planning will continue despite some constituents' protest.

Gale seemed to understand the skepticism of I-27 proponents and others with doubts. "I think it's a very new idea for this community, so people have worried about it ... bringing people who are actively using into an area," Gale said,



## SECURITY UPDATES

This is an ASUPS Media Publication

The following is a summary of incidents reported to Security Services occurring on campus between Feb. 13, 2018 and Feb. 19, 2018:

· Security responded to a complaint about the smell of marijuana coming from a room in a residence hall. Security responded and

contacted the residents, who denied marijuana use. There was no evidence of such in plain site in the room.

· Security responded to a report of a vehicle parked in the Warner Street parking lot near the North end of Jones Hall with its stereo playing excessively loud. Security contacted the vehicle occupant

who was compliant and turned off the stereo. The occupant reported he was not a member of the campus community and was in the lot trying to attract attention in hopes of finding people to "party" with. Tacoma Police responded and contacted the individual in the lot. The individual remained cooperative and left campus,

agreeing not to return.

### Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a community responsibility. Please do your part to keep the campus safe. Security staff work 24/7 and are available to assist you. Always report suspicious activity immediately to Security Services (253.879.3311).

Be mindful of your safety and security by using our 24-hour safety escort program and by keeping belongings secured. The use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly recommended. Contact a member of our team if you have questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you.

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The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse.

Visit [trail.pugetsound.edu](http://trail.pugetsound.edu) for the full mission statement.



# Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards: On service and community

By Isaac Sims-Foster

On Monday, Feb. 12, the Tacoma Historical Society hosted Victoria Woodards, 39th Mayor of Tacoma, for a lecture here at the University. "A Tacoma Mayor's Life Journey" saw two former mayors in attendance, Bill Baarsma and Harold Moss, as well as a myriad of Tacoma residents intent on learning about their recently elected mayor.

One such resident, Mary Morrison, sat front and center at the event, anticipating Woodards' presentation. "She has a powerful message to tell," Morrison said. As an employee for the Office of Equity and Human Rights that Woodards has recently founded, Morrison was "ecstatic that she's mayor."

Attending all the way from the Dome District, City employee Chris Bell was interested in "getting to know [Woodards] on a personal level. I'm excited to see her achieve realistic and measurable goals."

Woodards was introduced by close friend and colleague Dr. Dexter Gordon, an African American and Communication Studies professor here at the University. Gordon's own career in community service is closely tied with Woodards'; they've worked together previously through The Black Collective and the Tacoma Urban League.

"I love to talk to people, but I hate to talk about myself," Woodards started. A

powerpoint behind her was littered with pictures of her numerous recognitions in Tacoma's community.

She opened with recounting her youth, education and residence in South, East, Central, North and Northeast Tacoma, as well as Hilltop, Spanaway and Salishan throughout her childhood. Her father was black and her mother white, a fact that had a profound impact on her life.

The most impressionable moments were her anecdotal non-sequiturs; these often drew emotional reactions from the crowd. Woodards talked about winning Miss Congeniality in a high school pageant: "I think I got that award because I was the most helpful person. I helped girls zip up their dresses and I helped them fix their hair and I helped them make sure their costumes were straight. I just always wanted to be helpful. I always wanted to serve. It's just something innate in me. It's not something I created, it's not something I watched a YouTube video and became, it's just who God made me."

"I always loved service, and I saw this as another way to serve, but I also saw it as a way to be able to leave Tacoma," Woodards said about swearing into the army after high school. "After being away from home for about three months, I got my orders, and they said,

'You're going to Fort Lewis, Washington.' I've always been meant to be here."

After the military, Woodards did small office work and Tacoma while beginning her career in community service. She would go on to become an assistant to Harold Moss on the Pierce County Council in 2004, then a member of the Tacoma City Council in 2009, then Deputy Mayor in 2014. She also served as the President of the Tacoma Urban League from 2011 to her election to the position of Mayor.

She went on to recall her job at lumber/home improvement franchise Boise Cascade's office in Downtown Tacoma, fresh out of the Army. "You would think that I had experienced racism of some form in my life, and I'm sure I probably did. But like some things in life, I was oblivious to it. It never hit me smack dab in the face, until one day at Boise Cascade." Working as an administrative assistant, she came back from the bathroom to see to coworkers in front of her desk. "They were having this conversation between one another when one said, 'You know that n----r girl.' ... I didn't pay it any attention. I sat at my desk, the conversation replayed in my head, and I said to myself, 'Wait a second. There's 103 employees in this office. I'm the only person of color. They were talking about

me."

Woodards closed her presentation with her favorite quote from Scripture: "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord, to them who are the called according to his purpose" [Romans 8:28]. I

believe that when we walk in our purpose, when we do what we're supposed to do, doors will continue to open. You will be successful. So that's my journey. What makes a mayor? Community, family and faith."



PHOTO CREDIT TO KATHERINE KESSLER

Photo pictures Woodards during the mayoral debate held at the University last semester.

## Sally Jewell to give 2018 commencement speech

By Marcelle Rutherford

On Monday, Feb. 2, President Crawford announced Sally Jewell, the 51st U.S. Secretary of the Interior, as the commencement speaker for the 2018 commencement ceremony. Jewell was chosen by a committee as the person best suited to deliver this address to the class of 2018.

"Sally Jewell embodies characteristics and values that align with our mission, demonstrating a capacity for critical analysis, sound judgement, intellectual curiosity, and service to her community. She has dedicated her life to making positive change in the world and meeting the highest tests of democratic citizenship," President Crawford said in the announcement email.

Jewell has had an impressive career thus far, both in the public and private sector. Much of her work has involved nature and the outdoors, according to the University press release. Jewell is also a Pacific Northwest native who has spent a lot of time in local national parks, and she has climbed Mt. Rainer many times.

"I think Sally Jewell is a great choice. She has balanced a career in business with public service. She started as an engineer, moved into banking, then became the head of a large outdoor-equipment retailer (REI) and finally served as Secretary of the Interior," Physics professor and committee member James Evans said.

Evans went on to highlight her accomplishments in advocating for environmental and indigenous issues, both nationally and in the Pacific

Northwest.

"Through most of her life she has been an effective advocate for enlightened environmental policy. As Secretary of the Interior, she worked to protect rivers and wild places, and she also ordered the renaming of the highest peak in the United States 'Denali,' a restoration of the name used originally by native people," Professor Evans said.

"Her passion for the outdoors and her connections to Washington State also make her a good choice. ... She is an effective and engaging speaker," Professor Evans concluded.

President Obama announced Jewell as Secretary of the Interior in 2013. Jewell had had no previous political experience, but had had extensive experience in the private sector figuring out how to

combine her passion for the environment with business. This information comes from the Obama White House Archives.

"So even as Sally has spent the majority of her career outside of Washington — where, I might add the majority of our interior is located — she is an expert on the energy and climate issues that are going to shape our future. She is committed to building our nation-to-nation relationship with Indian Country" President Obama, while announcing her as secretary, said.

Jewell's tendency to combine business or government work with her values of environmental conservation and respect for indigenous populations makes her a clear choice for the role of commencement speaker at The University. She embodies a liberal arts education in her varied and fascinating career.

This quality of hers has not gone unnoticed by others. Jewell was made a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School in 2017 where she specifically discussed the interaction between economics and environmental sustainability with students, according to PR Newswire.

The Class of 2018 is sure to receive sound advice from someone who has found success being conscious and equitable in fields that people do not often associate with those values.

Jewell holds a B.A. in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington and will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Puget Sound at the ceremony.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE

Photo pictures Sally Jewell and former President Barack Obama after announcing Jewell as his nominee for 51st Interior Secretary on Feb. 6, 2013.



PAGE DESIGN/ELLA FRAZER

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# Most recent mass shooting brings attention to failures in leadership, data collection — what's next?

By Jackie Sedley

*CW: Guns, violence, mass shooting*

At Stoneman Douglas High, in Parkland, Florida, former student 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz committed a mass shooting, leaving 17 dead and dozens injured on Feb 14.

Some headlines claimed that this was the 18th shooting of 2018 thus far, while others argued there had only been three. After more intensive research, I found that the only substantial evidence regarding nationwide shootings that seemed irrefutable was that there have been over 200 school shootings, resulting in over 400 injuries and/or deaths, since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012, according to The New York Times.

In his Feb. 15 address to the nation, President Trump expressed his deepest sympathies for the families and communities affected by the Florida shooting — with the assistance of a teleprompter. While Trump made sure to address mental health, religion and the importance of prayer and support systems, he suspiciously refrained from mentioning gun violence, gun control or even the word “gun.” He also ignored the fact that research has yet to prove any correlation between mental disorders and gun violence.

Unfortunately, in attempting to uncover evidence to counter Trump’s incoherence, I realized that there is a shocking lack of reliable research surrounding gun violence in the United States.

Government gun research began dwindling in 1996, when the passing of the Dickey Amendment stated that “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.” According to Scientific American, funding for gun research from 1996 to 2013 dropped by 96 percent. The website’s research also detailed that the National Institute of Health discontinued its funding program in early 2017, which meant that researchers applying for firearms research funding are much less likely to be approved and complied with.

The National Rifle Association (NRA), one of the most powerful special interest lobbying groups in the nation, has been a key player over the past two decades to limit any movement trying to gain funding for firearm research or advocate for gun control laws.

The definition of “mass shooting” has also greatly contributed to confusion regarding statistics. Whether sources differ in distinguishing based upon location, number of casualties or intent of the shooter, there does not seem to be agreement on how to track mass violence in America.

There are institutional methods and practices that can strengthen research surrounding mass shootings within

the nation without the involvement of governmental organizations. For one, open-source, online databases create a space wherein users can input factual information regarding shootings, leaving it up to the viewer to apply his or her individual definition of what constitutes a mass shooting.

Public advocacy for widespread change can also spark a movement toward research and prevention, as students who witnessed the Florida shooting has been displaying; in fact, they seem to be advocating more than any legislative body across the nation.

According to Time Magazine, Stoneman Douglas High teenagers are organizing a March 24 march in Washington, D.C. and other cities around the country to advocate for stricter gun control legislation. Clearly, Trump’s call to turn to “thoughts and prayers” as a sort of safety blanket for survivors is not enough anymore.

If Trump has any ounce of reason or intelligence in his body — which is proving to be more and more debatable — he must have even the slightest inclination that gun control regulations possess the potential to limit the number of mass shootings in the United States. Due to his narcissistic tendencies and inability to accept defeat or take accountability for his wrongdoings, however, Trump did not make any sort of

call to action for stronger gun control laws or safety regulations.

The nation should be both alarmed and disgraced that we have reached a point where 15-year-olds are telling legislators enough is enough. While conservatives claim to hold immense respect for victims and their families, the lack of action being taken to prevent shootings like these from happening again speaks to the absence of true empathy.

Yet again, our country’s leader and Congress members on all sides have chosen to take the beaten path when responding to a nationwide issue. If the first two months of the year are any indication, 2018 does not look like a promising time for a natural decrease of gun violence. The only way to make any change is direct action; however, this involves trekking down the road less traveled and implementing newly-crafted, less conservative laws and mandates revolving around gun control regulation. The president, as well as organizations like the NRA, may very well be standing in the way of the nation’s progress.

# Proposed SNAP changes by Trump administration could be disastrous for Americans in need

By Casey O’Brien

Do poor people have the right to choose the food they eat? Not necessarily, based on the Trump administration’s budget proposal for the SNAP program.

SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is the program formerly known as food stamps. Until now, SNAP has operated through something called EBT cards — electronic benefit transfers — basically, debit cards that you can use on groceries.

Trump’s proposal involves halving the amount of money offered through EBT, and delivering boxes of dried foods, canned foods and cereals to SNAP recipients. As it is, SNAP can only be used on groceries or seeds to grow foods. It cannot, according to the USDA, be used on anything but food products, and it can only be used on limited foods — hot foods in grocery stores, for example, are not eligible.

But the limitations of SNAP could go a lot farther. Trump’s budget proposal includes a radical restructuring of SNAP, that, if approved by Congress, would represent one of the largest alterations to safety net programs in recent American history — and one of the most invasive.

The boxes would go to any SNAP recipient who receives more than \$90 a month, which is over 80 percent. That means that most SNAP recipients would lose their right to choose the food they eat each month, instead receiving a box with “shelf-stable milk, ready-to-eat cereals, pasta, peanut butter, beans and canned fruit and vegetables,” according to the budget.

There would be no fresh produce in the boxes, representing yet another instance of produce being kept out of reach of America’s poor. Emily Jean Kreager, a mother from Nevada,

wrote a Facebook post about receiving SNAP that has since been shared over 50,000 times.

In an interview with *The Trail*, she said, “It’s the politicians that collect a salary from our tax dollars telling those in poverty that we are too unintelligent or too easily swayed to

could be problematic. Dried and canned foods tend to be high in preservatives like corn and soy, which are highly common allergies, and many people are also allergic to gluten and dairy.

According to the nonprofit Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE), 15 million Americans have food allergies, including nearly 6 million children — the very people whom SNAP is aimed to protect.

Kreager said, “My middle son has severe allergies. Many of them cause digestive issues as well as anaphylaxis. He wouldn’t be able to eat anything these boxes are promoting besides canned veggies, beans and possibly the canned meats.” Many people also have restrictions on what they can eat because of religious reasons or because they are vegetarian or vegan.

But even if you have no food restrictions at all, it’s simply fundamentally wrong to remove the autonomy of someone’s right to choose the food they eat simply because they are poor. Nell Scoggins, a Puget Sound alum who has been a recipient of SNAP, said, “Food is so important, not just for sustenance, but emotionally and culturally, and it’s arrogant and disrespectful to think that the state can do a better job of feeding us than we can.”

Food is a human right, and the recipients for the SNAP program, most of whom are working Americans, deserve that right. “I would liken this [proposal] to rations more than anything else because we are removing the choice from the individual,” Kreager said. I think we can do better than rations for America’s poor, and I hope you do, too.



EBT cards from multiple states

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKI MEDIA COMMONS

abuse any sort of choice in what we do with those benefits.”

Boxes like this have long been distributed on reservations, with disastrous effects. A National Institute of Health study found that none of the boxes met even the basic health standards of Federal health guidelines. Obesity is a large issue on reservations, likely partly because of the lack of healthy options available to residents.

For recipients whose children have food allergies, the boxes



The Happy Trail is The Trail’s weekly sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safer sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to [nalee@pugetsound.edu](mailto:nalee@pugetsound.edu). Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to [trail@pugetsound.edu](mailto:trail@pugetsound.edu).

# Breakdown of four common fetishes

By Emma Holmes

Before discussing the word “fetish,” we should describe it. It’s frequently thrown around synonymously with “kink”, or “turn-on,” but the three are actually different degrees of a similar phenomenon. A “turn-on” is simply some action, material, situation or concept that arouses you. A “kink” is a turn-on that exists beyond commonly-perceived sexual norms. Finally, a fetish can be defined as an extreme fixation on a turn-on. Fetishes are common, and yet also commonly misunderstood. This week, the Happy Trail explored the online presence of some of the most popular fetishes to better understand the communities behind them. While people may share common fetishes, it’s important to recognize that everyone is aroused by something for their own set of reasons, and no overarching statements can aptly describe individual members of a community.

Here’s a glimpse into four popular fetishes, including their popularity, their forums and some of their potential causes.

**Foot Fetish:** The foot is widely regarded as one of the most popular unconventional sexual objects. A foot fetish involves a need to interact with feet adoringly, through massage, kissing or another action. Some researchers (Scott Jacoby PhD., Birch Counseling) suggest that part of a foot fetish has to do with hyper-humility, since feet are commonly linked with degradation or unworthiness. At any rate, a person who’s developed a foot fetish has a strong sexual association with feet, perhaps (but not necessarily) stemming from childhood or another formative event that reinforced the connection.

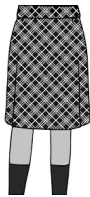


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

**Pee Fetish:** A urination fetish indicates a sexual desire to witness or experience one or more parties pee in a sexual situation. This fetish tends to cause discomfort for some people more than others, because of the strong sensations associated with urine — the smell, the color, the content. However, those same things can be arousing to someone with a urine fetish. Research via in-depth interviews with people self-identifying as pee fetishists suggests that some desire the act because of the trust it necessitates between partners, while others enjoy it because it is humiliating, either for them or their partner. Still others desire the extreme nature of peeing on someone. It should be noted that urine can still carry and spread germs.



**School Girl Fetish:** The school-girl, or more aptly, the teacher-student fetish is one that hosts many subsequently specific interests. In general, it describes a fixation on a school uniform, a teacher-student power dynamic, or an age-play interest. It can stem from a desire to reaffirm sexual impulses that were discouraged as a teenager, or seek affirmation in the form of sexual attention from an authority figure. Because of the broad range of dynamics at play in the “school-girl” fetish, it’s become widely popular, and continues to be popular category for porn and other transactional sex work.



FOUR ABOVE PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**Furry Fetish:** The Furry community is one that’s received a lot of press coverage looking for a “wow” factor, banking on the fact that popular culture will consume only the sensationalized version of the story. In reality, the Furry community has made it clear that only a small portion of their followers fetishize the practice, or need it to achieve orgasm. While the broader community shares an enthusiasm for intelligent animal life, Furry fetishists (again, not all Furies), rely on their “fursona” to achieve sexual satisfaction, which may range from introducing animal costumes or actions into the bedroom to seeking out cybersex with other like-minded Furry identifiers.



Again, fetishes are a subjective experience that can only be defined by a person’s individual dependence on certain sexual stimuli. Psychologists agree that fetishes are not a problem unless they begin to disrupt a person’s daily behavior or endanger them or their sexual partner(s). If a fetish begins to consume an increased amount of mental space and time, or if it involves harming someone for sexual arousal without their consent, then it’s a diagnosable disorder with viable treatment options. If not, then it’s simply one part of who someone is.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

## Catching a catfisher

By Nayla Lee

For 24 hours in the eighth grade, I was a catfish. No, not the weird-looking whiskered fish that are often found in shallow, running water; I pretended to be someone I wasn’t, using fake pictures to “hook” a guy in my class. I’d like to state that I’m not proud of this story.

It all started when a girl in my class, let’s call her Kaya, showed our friend, let’s call him Lincoln, a picture of her hot cousin, named Desiree or something. He asked if he could get her number, and as a prank, Kaya gave him mine instead.

Thinking he was talking to Desiree, Lincoln texted me all through the night. He told me about his skateboarding and told me how pretty my picture was. He boasted about stuff from school that I knew was embellished. After a few hours, he asked if he could call me. I panicked.

I told him that I had a cold, and that I couldn’t talk for long. I deepened my voice, hoping he wouldn’t recognize it. Our two-minute conversation was awkward, and I’m pretty sure we talked about Jerking, the briefly popular style of dance. (This was 2009 and Jerk crews were all the rage in Southern California, and he was part of a group of boys that would practice during lunch).

I started to feel sick to my stomach, and told him I had to go to bed soon after. I’ve honestly blocked the rest of the story out due to pure shame. I don’t even know if he remembers — I tried to find him on Facebook while I was writing this story, but either he doesn’t have one or it’s super private. I honestly can’t remember if we ever told him, or if he thought that this mysterious young hottie had disappeared as quickly as she’d entered his life.

I’m not particularly torn up over the experience anymore, if we’re being honest. Obviously, I would never do it again, and I know it was a disrespectful and dishonest choice. However, my rudimentary trickery was barely a toe-dip into the world of catfishing.

From fake Facebook profiles to phone numbers to Tinder accounts, catfishing has had to evolve into an extremely sophisticated hobby with potentially disastrous consequences. We want to offer some simple tips for people engaging in online interactions with people they haven’t met in person.

Whether you’re just friends, you’re in a relationship, or you see a potential for either of these scenarios, here are some ways to confirm that the person behind the screen is who they say they are.

- 1. Send each other selfies that aren’t on your profiles**  
If a Tinder date seems a little too good to be true, offer to trade pictures before you meet up. Maybe say something like “I want to see what you’re wearing so I don’t accidentally walk up to a stranger!”
- 2. Reverse-image search a picture they’ve posted**  
This tool allows you to drag and drop an image into the Google search bar, and the results will show everywhere that it’s been posted before — social media pages, official websites, or company pages included. This can be a good way to tell if someone is engaging in identity theft.
- 3. FaceTime**  
If you’ve been messaging or talking to this person on the phone, a great way to make sure that they’re for real is to have as close to a face-to-face chat as possible!

Other ways to make sure you know the true identity of the person behind the screen include having them hold up a sign with your name on it, talking to one of their friends or family members, and creating an opportunity for them to tell the truth.

Obviously, it’s not okay to lie about who you are on the Internet. While it can be harmful and potentially illegal (especially if the pictures being used belong to another individual), often this form of escapism is being used more in pursuit of intimacy than for malicious purposes.

However, some safety measures should always be taken when interacting with strangers online. If you plan to meet up, it’s easy to share your location with a friend via mobile apps, or even bring someone else along! Trading pictures beforehand is another great way to both make sure they’re being legit about who they are, and to show friends in case of a real emergency.



# Abroad View: *Churches in Berlin still carry their Cold War legacies*

By Aidan Regan

According to Berlin's official website, the city is home to over 250 different religions. Despite this abundance, Berlin is often called the "atheist capital of the world." 64 percent of the city's population does not identify with any religion — a staggeringly high number in comparison to other major cities worldwide. This phenomenon stems from Cold War-era East Germany. Its atheist, Marxist-Leninist government fought to repress religion through



*Kapelle der Versöhnung*

both popular prejudice and official policy. Nevertheless, the steeples rising over Berlin's horizon are a reminder that religion has played an important role here. World War II destroyed much of Berlin, and it can be easy to forget how old the city is. But each church is not only an island of older architecture amid much newer buildings. They are also the historic registers of a city that's been through so much, including atheist East Germany.

One of the more famous churches in Berlin is the Kapelle der Versöhnung (the Chapel of Reconciliation). Built on what used to be the inaccessible "death strip" between the western and eastern sides of the Berlin Wall, the church replaced the Church of Reconciliation, built in 1894. East German troops blew up this church in 1985 to "increase the security, order and cleanliness on the state border." After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the city hired two local architects to construct the memorial church. It is built entirely out of wood and pressed clay, filled with rubble from the previous church. Of the original church, only this rubble, the bells, a piece of the altar, and the bent cross that flew from the spire remain. It's surrounded by a memorial to the Berlin Wall, and every Tuesday through Friday a memorial service occurs in honor of the wall's victims.

Not too far from the Kapelle der Versöhnung is the Zionskirche. According to information on display in the church, it began as a parish called the "Zion Chapel" which attracted 20,000 Christians weekly. In the parish's

words, that made it "the city's largest contingent of proletariat and poverty." After surviving an assassination attempt, the German Emperor Wilhelm I donated the funds for the construction of a new church to celebrate. It became the tallest building in Berlin when it was completed in 1866. Towards the end of World War II, a fire bomb damaged much of the church. It was rebuilt in 1953, but by then East Germany's assault on religious life had taken full force. In response, the church became a place of resistance. East German opposition groups met in the church's basement to escape the surveillance of the secret police (Stasi). They planned protests, networked for political action groups and published a magazine. They also hid a secret library in the church, filled with banned books on environmental and human rights issues. Today, the church's permanent exhibit "Memory Becomes the Power of the Present" commemorates these actions.

Similar actions of resistance to the East German government took place in Berlin's Sophienkirche. Protests took place outside the church and punk concerts were held inside. East Germany forbade these activities



*Zionskirche*

ALL PHOTO CREDIT TO AIDAN REGAN



*Sophienkirche*

elsewhere, but the churches retained the right of free assembly. The church gave new opposition parties rooms to use, as well as groups protesting the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Like the Zionskirche's hidden library, secret cupboards hid these groups' political material from the Stasi. But the most famous event at the Sophienkirche was the visit of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964, when he gave two sermons to overflowing crowds. He was on a visit to West Berlin when he spontaneously decided to visit the Eastern side. In the words of his sermon, "God's children live on both sides of the Wall, and no man-made barricade can change that fact."

These events were not isolated in East Germany's history. Because of the state's hostility to religion, churches all over the nation became places of resistance. One month before the fall of the Berlin Wall, a group of 8,000 churchgoers in Leipzig's Nicolaikirche swelled to a crowd of 100,000, their protest becoming the largest in the nation's history. These churches haven't forgotten the roles they played in shaping history. Even in the "atheist capital of the world," these churches remain active and celebrate their legacies.

## Humans of Puget Sound

By Charlotte Fron



"Pike Place Market is a great community and it's been here since 1907. There are names on the floor tiles, which is a really a cool thing about the spirit of this place. The floor was condemned, in about the 1970's, and there were contractors trying to turn it into a parking lot. And we were like 'no, we don't want a parking lot, we want our market!'. So the Pike Place Market Foundation managed to form a structure where they could enable the public to buy their own floor, one square at a time. So now, it's a really heartwarming story when you see family members trying to find their family's name on the floor. They might be coming from other states and they want to come and see where they're commemorated forever, on this floor. It's kind of a fun thing to see that, but it's also why this market is still standing here after all these years because the community really really wants it here and it's great to be a part of that."

Inspired by Brandon Stanton's popular cultural exploration phenomenon, "Humans of New York," students at the University of Puget Sound have created their version of the project: "Humans of Puget Sound." The goal is to capture the different faces and stories in the Puget Sound community. Faces are not limited to the Puget Sound campus, as interviews have been conducted all over Tacoma and Seattle. Photographers continue to explore new areas of the Puget Sound area to gain a better understanding of the local culture and hidden-gem stories.

Photographs and quotes are shared on social media: @humansofpugetsound on Instagram, and "Humans of Puget Sound - HOPS" on Facebook.



# Professor Robert Nelson sheds light on historical housing inequality

By Kylie Gurewitz

On Feb. 12, Puget Sound alumnus Robert Nelson came to the University to give a talk titled, "Reckoning with Redlining and Renewal: Visualizing Inequality in American Cities." This presentation was centered around the digital mapping project created by researchers at the University of Richmond, where Nelson is currently a professor, and other universities across the country. Nelson's team, and others, collaborated on this project in order to present the 20th-century history of racial inequality in American cities.

He began with an overview of the history of redlining, which began as a part of the New Deal, after the Great Depression. In order to support the real estate market, an agency was created to rank neighborhoods for their investment safety. These rankings were published for neighborhoods across the country, and Nelson's team has worked to compile these and other documents to expose the overt racism that was involved in this practice. In his talk, Nelson went through these rankings of neighborhoods in Tacoma, focusing on those directly surrounding the University of Puget Sound. The ranking scale gave neighborhoods a score from A to D, taking into account a neighborhood's amenities, safety and racial statistics, the language of which demonstrated an acute fear of immigration and prejudice against people of color.

To explain how these rankings were informed, Nelson described two nearly identical neighborhoods in the Proctor district, which scored "B" and "D" respectively. To justify the "D" score, the report stated, "Three highly respected Negro families own homes and live in the middle block of this area. ... While very much above the average of their race, it is quite generally recognized by Realtors that their presence seriously detracts from the desirability of their immediate neighborhood." This example fits into a pattern of neighborhoods in Tacoma that received significantly lower scores than identical surrounding areas, simply because people of color were living there. Nelson stressed that this pattern was standard in the reports for the entire country.

Nelson explained that one of the main effects of this pattern was the "imperative towards active divestment," meaning that these rankings influenced and encouraged whites in these neighborhoods to sell their property and move elsewhere. This divestment causes

these neighborhoods to deteriorate, which creates crisis in these communities.

This deterioration of specific neighborhoods across the country prompted an "urban renewal" project two decades later, in order to clean up "slums" which were a product of this divestment. While potentially beneficial, these federally-funded projects allowed city governments to force residents out of their homes, ultimately displacing huge numbers of residents. The former residents were paid the market value for their previous homes, but this value was extremely depressed as a result of the economic crisis. City governments were then able to use this land for anything, such as new infrastructure development, commercial areas, or "anything that's going to increase the tax revenue for cities," Nelson explained.

Tacoma had three of these federal grants for urban renewal, one of which displaced 98 families from the community around Center Street. Almost half of the people displaced in this project were people of color. This group, considering Tacoma's predominantly white population, was disproportionately affected.

Nelson encouraged the audience to apply this new understanding to today's situation: "These maps suggest that some of these wealth and racial inequalities that we see today in American cities, they are not the product of some invisible hand of an uncontrollable market, but are partly the product

of intentional policy choices that are made by the federal government. And I think that's empowering." The idea is that if these inequalities were created by

government initiatives, then city and federal governments have agency today to work toward racial and economic equality.

Nelson concluded the talk by appreciating some teachers he had never met, teachers around the country who were incorporating these maps for their middle school classes and on. The notion that young people in America are learning about this inequality now reinforces Nelson's statement that these maps can be empowering, setting the stage for a future in which new policy can be used to "undesign the red line."

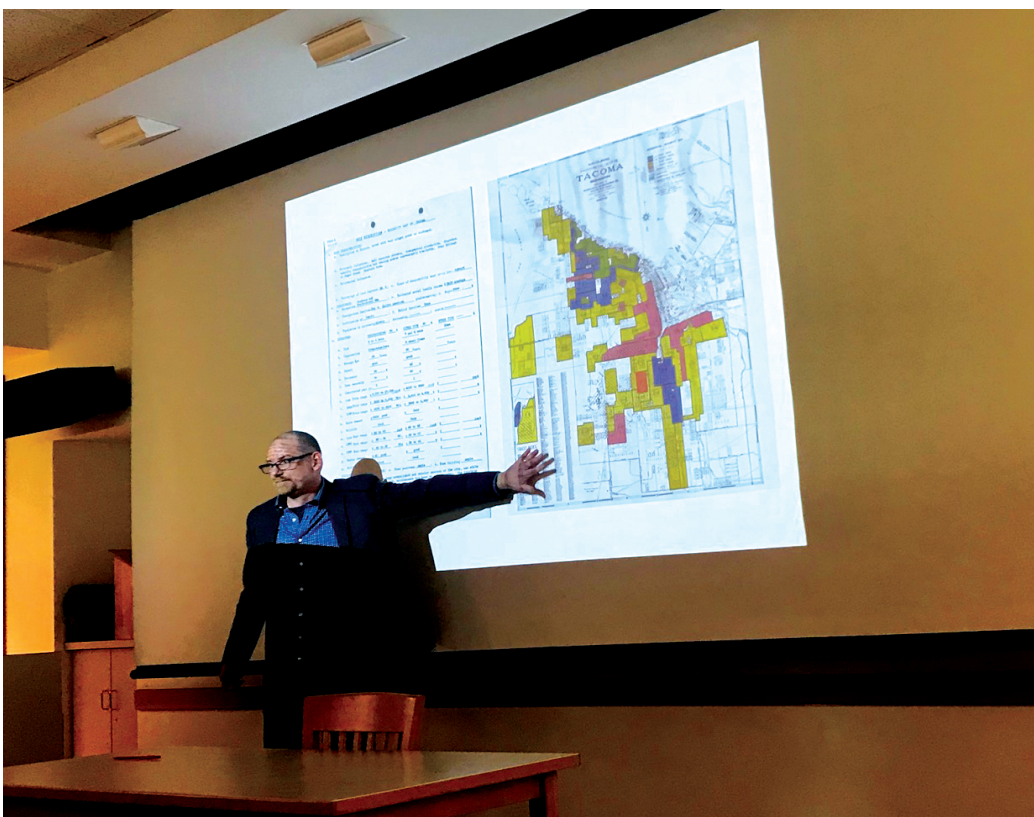


PHOTO CREDIT TO MOLLY WAMPLER

University of Richmond Professor Robert Nelson (Puget Sound '95) presents in Wyatt Hall last week. Projected is an example of the maps he has created (right) and a document explaining the racist motivations for giving a neighborhood a lower ranking (left). His project can be accessed online by visiting [dsl.richmond.edu](http://dsl.richmond.edu).

## Undocu-Joy: Yosimar Reyes inspires with talk about queer, undocumented identity

By Hadley Polinsky

Excited chatter echoed through Kilworth on Thursday, Feb. 15 as students and faculty alike waited for Yosimar Reyes to begin his talk entitled "Undocu-Joy." Reyes is a poet, writer and speaker who uses experiences from his own life, as well as the lives of other undocumented people, to bring attention to the overlap between being queer and undocumented in this country. Right now, as Reyes discussed, both undocumented people and queer people are facing similar struggles of not being accepted, both socially and politically.

This lecture was named after his recent project, "Undocu-Joy." In his work, Reyes focuses on his undocumented identity and the undocumented identity of others. He feels that undocumented people are incredibly misrepresented in the media, and is using his skills as a poet and writer to show what an undocumented person is really like. "Often times undocumented people are pigeon-holed into this idea of what we should be," Reyes said. "The way that I want to conduct the work I'm doing as a poet, as a writer is really talking about the three-dimensional human beings that are undocumented."

Reyes spent much of his talk describing his project, which showcases the lives of undocumented people. He wants to share what it's like for undocumented people to see the negative way they are shown in the media, and how that

portrayal affects their mentality. For example, he questioned how an undocumented person could watch the news about deportation and still choose to go to work and contribute to the very country that could deport them. "Instead of asking undocumented people, 'What do you fear?' we ask them, 'What brings you joy? What are the steps of self care that you can take in order to unplug from everything that is happening around the country?'" Reyes said. Reyes uses these questions to show a side of undocumented people that the media does not portray.

"One of the things I'm working against is if you cannot view undocumented people as human beings, if you choose to use vocabulary that criminalizes us or use words like 'illegal,' you rob us of our humanity," Reyes said.

To further display the life of an undocumented person,

Reyes performed parts of a one-man show he is working on producing, which highlighted in part how his childhood contributed to his identity. While being undocumented was certainly a part of it, he talked about his sexuality as well. He spoke a lot about questioning/learning his masculinity, feeling pressure to call other people homophobic slurs to protect himself, lacking male role models and finally growing into accepting and loving his sexuality.

Even though this is a serious matter, Reyes used humor throughout. "I liked how open he was; he didn't make it awkward. Sometimes when things are so serious you're like, 'I don't want to hear this.' But he made it easy to hear," first-year Maddie Shojai, who attended the talk, said. Through his use of humor and anecdotes, Reyes illustrated the joy that undocumented and queer people experience in their everyday lives.

Reyes hoped to be able to showcase how being undocumented and queer relates to the individual and the rest of the world through his childhood stories. He views his life as a coming-of-age story that is relatable to everyone, undocumented or not. "If you ever felt outcasted, if you ever felt frustrated with your certain situation, if you ever felt trapped by the social condition that you exist in, there's a universality to that," Reyes said.

*"If you ever felt outcasted, if you ever felt frustrated with your certain situation, if you ever felt trapped by the social condition that you exist in, there's a universality to that," Reyes said.*



# PSO spring break trips head to the sun for a week of escape

By Zachary Fletcher

Puget Sound Outdoors (PSO) is headed to California this spring break with two different backpacking trips available to students. The trips will be heading to Point Reyes National Seashore and Death Valley National Park during the second full week of March this coming spring break.

Point Reyes National Seashore is a protected coastline nestled in Marin County of Northern California. The area is managed by the National Park Service with miles of coastline hiking, tons of marine and wildlife habitats and a beautiful location just north of San Francisco. According to the National Park Service, the park contains over 70,000 acres of land with around 150 miles of available hiking trails.

For PSO's trip to Point Reyes, all skill levels of backpacking are welcome and the trip runs from Mar. 11–17 with an estimated cost of around \$200. The distance will vary from 4–10 miles per day, and the trip will include lots of time on the beach and spots at backcountry campsites.

"Spring break with PSO was one of the best decisions I have made at Puget Sound," sophomore Mariah Thomson (Placerville, California) said when asked to reflect on her time on last year's PSO spring break trip.

Another trip offered to students for the upcoming spring break ventures to Death Valley National Park, right in the heart of the California desert on the eastern border next to Nevada. According to the National Geographic, the park contains over three million acres of land and brings over one million visitors each year.

Intermediate to advanced backpackers are encouraged to attend this trip, which will run from Mar. 10–17. In addition to the sun and beautiful landscape of the park, this trip also offers students a chance to spend a day in the desert alone, allowing time for reflection and thoughtfulness during the week away from classes. The trip also estimates a cost of \$200.

Sophomores Brent Barker (San Marino, California) and Bryce Ulrich (Pleasant Hill, California)

took part in a trip to Glen Canyon National Recreation as part of a PSO trip during last year's spring break.

"My experience with PSO's spring break was amazing. Not only did I get to visit a new wilderness in Utah, but I got to know a new group of fantastic individuals," Barker said. "I'll never forget exploring those beautiful slot canyons and red rocks," he added.



Last year's trip to Glen Canyon was quite the sight

PHOTO CREDIT TO: ZACHARY FLETCHER

Ulrich paralleled that mindset and appreciated the people he was surrounded by on the PSO trip: "I have a good number of friends now that I never would have met without this trip, and have since gotten closer with a number of them. That's just what happens when you get to spend an extended amount of time in an isolated area with cool people."

Uncertainty also played a role in Ulrich's enjoyment: "Of course a number of things on the trip did not go to plan, but that is what makes backpacking and the outdoors exciting and fun — it's unpredictable."

Thomson spoke with great appreciation of the sun and the contrast to the typical Pacific Northwest weather that

she experienced last year: "First of all, THE SUN. Spring break in my beloved homeland California provided an opportunity for my sun-deprived body to finally warm from the outside in."

She also spoke of the great qualities the beautiful earth around her provided: "You'd think that five days of straight backpacking would tire you out, but it truly invigorates the spirit. Taking the time to reconnect with nature and disconnect from your devices is absolutely worth it."

PSO is offering a payment plan for the costs of the trips this year, as well as setting up free rentals from the Expeditionary house (Expy) for anyone going on a spring break trip. Nine spots on each trip make for a comfortable and intimate backpacking experience with the stress of planning a hiking trip left to the trained professionals at PSO.

Spending time in the beautiful earth of the west coast is just one option for students this upcoming spring break. A week away from the stresses of homework and eating from the S.U.B. is a great opportunity to step back, take a breath, and fully answer the call of the backcountry. It's easy to get lost in the bubble of campus life from time to time, as classes and courses and clubs consume everyone's

time. But spring break offers a worldview that Thomson sums up nicely when asked about her trip last spring:

"Overall, this was a wholesome experience, that involved a lot of burritos, laughs and very few poops. The earth has a way of absorbing the impacts of our bodies, the soil forgiving and supportive. ... Get outside and maybe pay more attention to the details of our landscape, and in the process, you'll surely learn more about yourself."

## Softball and baseball look to reach high expectations By Tayla MacPherson

The softball and baseball teams both began their pre-seasons this month. The women Loggers were ranked eighth in the conference in the pre-season, as were as the men. Both teams have high expectations for their seasons.

The softball team has six talented seniors and has added seven first-years to the team this year.

Head coach Kellyn Tate described the shared expectations the women's team and staff have for the program this upcoming season.

"We have a large senior class that has been with me all four years, so we share the same goals. We always, every year, focus on the process and let the outcome happen for itself. But making the NWC tournament is the next step for our program," Tate said.

The team has 20 players this season, which Coach Tate described as the perfect size.

Amanda Fehr, a senior from Las Vegas, Nevada, explained why this season will be the most exciting and special.

"This season is going to be different than others because not only is it the biggest team we've had in the four years I've been here, but also the most competitive. Our first weekend in California was the strongest preseason weekend I've had as a Logger and it makes me so excited for conference to start. We have depth at positions we have never had before as well as a huge freshman class who bring lots of great new talent to the team," Fehr said.

So far this season, the women have played two weekends in California and one home weekend with a record of 2-5-1. The softball program has continued to improve every season and they hope to do the same this year.

Coach Tate described the team culture of this season: "I am extremely happy with how our season has started. We are holding one another more accountable than we ever have before. I see us continuing to improve. We continue

to use the growth mindset as failure happens. ... We must embrace failure and learn from it," Tate said.

The women will compete against Linfield on Saturday and Sunday Feb. 24 and 25.

The baseball team opened their season with a record of 2-2. The squad is made up of 39 players, 14 of whom are first-years.

hopes to compete for the top four spots in conference to continue their season beyond regular-season games.

Gries explained how the team hopes to contend in every game they compete in. "This year we have added experience, and we are looking to build on the foundation we built last year in all aspects, offensively in particular. The whole dynamic of a game changes when you score runs. If we



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOGGER ATHLETICS

Jack Gries, a junior from Sublimity, Oregon, described the team's expectations for the upcoming season.

"As a team, we expect to make the conference tournament and compete for a conference title. We have a group of veterans that are driven to make an impact on the conference, and when combined with the competitiveness of the younger talent, we become a dangerous team if we play cohesively and to our strengths," Gries said.

Last season the team finished eighth in conference and in the 2016 season they finished seventh. To compete in the Northwest Conference tournament the team must finish within the top four spots. Like Gries described, the squad



consistently put pressure on other teams via offense, it will add confidence to our pitching staff, which is one of the best in the conference, and allow us to play the strong defensive game we are accustomed to playing," Gries said.

The baseball team will travel to California this upcoming weekend to play against Claremont McKenna, Pomona-Pitzer and Bates College.



Sports Recaps

By Gabi Marrese

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Loggers traveled to their cross-town rivals on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Pacific Lutheran could not handle the Loggers' sophomore Jamie Lange, who had her fifteenth double-double of the season. Puget Sound won by 35 and recorded their largest victory margin of the season. Leading scorer of the game went to junior Elizabeth Prewitt with 17 of their 71 points. The Loggers were on the road again for their final conference game against Lewis & Clark. A low-scoring first half for both teams but the Loggers were only down 22-20. The Loggers lost touch of ball control as they had 23 turnovers in the game, although 20 of their 45 rebounds came on the offensive side. The Pioneer found the net in the second half and won 69-50. The overall record for the Loggers this season is 12-13.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Puget Sound men's team trailed by nine at half against the Lutes. In the second half the Loggers held onto the ball, only turning it over 14 times compared to 28 from Pacific Lutheran. Logger sophomore Max Basile had 10 rebounds for his third double-digit rebounding game of the season. They came out at half strong and won 84-70. A win against Lewis & Clark in their last conference game of the season put the Loggers at the number-three seed in the Northwest Conference Tournament. Junior Jimmy Wohrer became the first Logger in program history to make 100 three-pointers in a season. First-year Anthony Rumasuglia had a game-high 19 points against the Pioneers as well. The Loggers faced Whitworth in the NWC semi-finals on Thursday, Feb 22.

SOFTBALL

The Loggers headed to California for a double header against Pomona-Pitzer on Friday Feb. 16. Pomona-Pitzer started off the first inning of the first game with two runs. They scored in the fifth and sixth and left the Loggers scoreless. The second game started off with Pomona-Pitzer scoring four runs in the first. The Loggers first-year Camille Goo and sophomore Abby Brondos both had RBI singles but they eventually fell 4-2. On Sunday, Feb. 18 the Loggers traveled to Whittier. The first game was another shutout against the Loggers. Whittier scored two runs in the first and third inning along with three more in the fifth. Again, Whittier was first to score with five runs in the second. The Loggers countered with a two-RBI double by sophomore Marissa Oda in fourth. Whittier answered with three runs in the sixth. The Loggers were up for their last change and were only able to score four in the seventh. The Loggers fell 8-6 to Whittier.

BASEBALL

The last day in Oregon, Monday, Feb. 12, the Loggers faced George Fox. Michael Warnick, junior, started for the Loggers and threw seven scoreless innings. On the offensive side, Mason Quinlan, sophomore, finished their trip to Oregon with three consecutive multi-hit games. Senior Ryan Moyes hit his first homerun of the season in the eighth inning and finished 3 for 4. Warnick earned the 9-1 win for the his first win of the season. The Loggers were supposed to play crosstown rivals Pacific Lutheran in their Northwest Conference opener on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17-18, but the game was postponed due to weather conditions.

Men's basketball clinches third seed in NWC tournament

By Kevin White

After clinching a spot in the Northwest Conference playoffs last weekend, the Loggers managed to finish out their season strong and capture the third seed in the playoffs. In the first round, Puget Sound will be battling against Whitworth in the NWC Semifinals.

Coming into the playoffs, the Loggers boast an 11-5 conference record. All of the losses came from the other teams in the tournament, with two losses to both Whitman and Whitworth, and one to Linfield. Whitman, the tournament's one-seed, boasts a perfect record on the season. The Loggers gave Whitman one of their toughest games of the season, losing only by three in the game in the Memorial Fieldhouse.

The Loggers played Whitworth on Thursday, Feb. 22. The Loggers are approaching the same run-and-gun game plan they've used all year. Senior Easton Driesse (Brewster, Washington) said that the Loggers are hoping to build off close games earlier

in the year in order to enter the game with a winning mentality. For Driesse, a lot of that confidence comes from the trust in the new system and the coaching staff. Easton described the team's



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGER ATHLETICS

motto, "buzzsaw basketball," as "loud, fast-moving, efficient, and also scary." Will it be enough? Driesse thinks that, if the players prepare well and keep on "trusting the process," then they'll have a shot. (I, personally, am a BIG fan of the process reference from Driesse — he's got my vote for National Player of the Year.)

The Loggers have a tough

the team may not be out of the running for the Division III NCAA tournament. While the Loggers haven't received any votes in the last poll, they still boast a better record than numerous tournament teams last year. Either way, this season has to count as a success. Head Coach Justin Lunt predicted that a win on Thursday would help the Loggers enter the national

tournament discussion. Overall, the season has been a success to the team. Driesse said, on making the playoffs, that "it is a great feeling. A feeling of pride and accomplishment not only for myself but for my team. This was our goal from the very beginning of the year." Head Coach Lunt agreed, saying, "We were pre-season picked to finish sixth in our conference after losing seven seniors... Extremely proud of what we have accomplished thus far." The team has instituted a new system, made the playoffs, improved on last year's record and played an incredibly exciting brand of basketball.

These new-look Loggers will be fun viewing for the foreseeable future. So as we learn whether our Loggers will continue their season, let's enjoy the entertainment and, as always, remember to trust the process!

Logger tennis trying to build on success

By Eli Thomas

The Logger men's tennis had a tough start to the 2018 season facing D-I opponent Portland State. The Loggers lost all singles matches; junior Riley Inn (Honolulu, Hawaii) and first-year Lowell Hutton (Boise, Idaho) both produced a single game win during their matches.

Portland State's doubles teams proved as staunch as their singles, winning all three matches against the Loggers. Senior Joe McRoberts (Seattle, Washington) and Riley Inn fell 8-2, first-year Joshua Wah-Blumberg (Seattle, Washington) and junior Ben Colson (Denver, Colorado) lost 8-2 and in the third match first-year Jose Sebastian Linares (Salem, Oregon) and Lowell Hutton lost 8-0.

The Loggers faced Lewis and Clark in their first conference matchup. The Loggers once again found a difficult opponent, losing 9-0 to the Pioneers. The Loggers faced Spokane Falls Community College in their home opener on Feb. 18, winning 5-4.

Under the leadership of new head coach DJ Janssen, Logger tennis has ushered in new methods and a new perhaps a new excitement. Riley Inn weighed in one some of these changes.

"Our new coaches have brought a lot of energy and fresh drills to practices and matches. I'm excited for us to get better throughout the season and hopefully improve from last year. It's Joe McRoberts last ride so we are trying to go out with a bang and get some solid wins this season."

New coaching has perhaps shifted the focus in practice, Riley remarked

that practice has been built around minimizing mistakes.

"In practice, we've been focusing a lot on strategy and how to construct points. Practices have been focusing on limiting unforced errors and focusing on winning multiple points in a row."

Every coach's first year proves difficult as they have yet to have time to build their recruiting class, a difficulty in the past of recruiting players has left the team in a potentially tough spot.

"We would benefit from some new players who bring a lot of energy and experience. I think a lot of new freshmen next year would help us since we are a small team right now and miss the opportunity to practice with different people and have less alternates when players get injured." Inn said.

Logger women's tennis improved their record to 1-2 following a victory over PLU.

The Loggers faced a formidable opponent in Willamette, losing 7-2. A win came from sophomore Barclay Fagg (Billings, Montana) winning 6-4, 6-2. Fagg secured the other win with doubles partner senior Tamara Runnicles (San Francisco, California) winning 9-8.

The Logger's first win came against Pacific Lutheran, singles were split 3-3 against the Lutes. A 2-1 record in doubles edged the Loggers past PLU winning the match 5-4. The Loggers fell 9-0 to the vaunted University of British Columbia in an exhibition.

Senior Tresa Bild (Boise, Idaho)

weighed in on how the coaching changes have affected the women's team.

"We have had extremely big changes to the coaching staff over the past four years that I have been here. We are finally, once again, getting to a place of stability. Our head coach, DJ has been excellent - a super great addition to the program this year."

Excitement about the new coaching staff is apparent across both teams, seemingly energized by new approaches and outlooks, yet comforted in the fact that the new program is here to stay.

Bild's comments echoed those of Inn, in respect to the need for more alternates and a strong recruiting class next year. Bild spoke on the strengths of the women's team, specifically their cohesiveness.

"Camaraderie, we are a closely knit group of gals on and off the court. We do a really good job supporting each other on the court and everything else we have going on off court."

Women's tennis returns home Mar. 10 to face divisional opponent Willamette.

A new coaching staff can often cause hurdles for an existing team, Janssen and his staff have however brought optimism among the players, seeing a talented coach and recruiter. The Loggers may not win every game this season but continue to solidify themselves as a competitor in the Northwest Conference.



Combat Zone is *The Trail's* satire section.

*The Combat Zone is intended to be a satirical work. The views and opinions expressed by the Combat Zone do not necessarily reflect those of The Puget Sound Trail, ASUPS, concerned parties or the University of Puget Sound. Please submit compliments or complaints in the form of letters to the editor.*

# Human oddity is bad with names but great with faces

By Bean McQueen

Some rare individuals are born with “super vision,” the ability to see millions more colors than the average human. Some can execute remarkable feats of memory such as playing any piece of music after hearing it once, or memorizing thousands of digits of the irrational number pi. Such gifts are quite rare, but this week one gifted student was discovered on this very campus: Adam Chong is bad with names, but great with faces.

The discovery was made on Tuesday, Jan. 13, when Chong incorrectly greeted a classmate by the name “Sarah.”

“My name is Clara, and we’ve had a couple of classes together, so immediately I was like, ‘Hm. There’s something odd going on here,’” junior Clara Jelson said. “I corrected him, and he immediately apologized like, ‘Sorry, I’m so bad with names, but I’m good with faces.’ Like, he didn’t even realize how amazing that was; he didn’t understand that’s not what it’s like for everyone.”

Word of Chong’s remarkable gift quickly spread across campus, inspiring curiosity and excitement across departments. By Wednesday, faculty from eight different fields of study were clamoring for a chance to speak with Chong.

Psychology Professor Linda Meers said studying Chong could make her career.

“I mean, these are the kind of case studies where strides and bounds are made in our understanding of the human brain,” Meers said, breathless with excitement. “Working at a small university, you never expect to be

able to do this kind of work, groundbreaking, revealing studies with rare and special people, the kind of work that has the whole world watching ... and now I have that chance. If I play this right, I could be a Nobel Prize winner.”

Meers mimed cradling Chong’s head close to her.

“What’s going on in that beautiful, beautiful mind?” she whispered.

“There’s something about this case that’s inherently literary,” English professor Terry Molbrush said. “Adam Chong is in a position to completely explode the current paradigm on how readers experience narrative. Names, words, letters as a conceptual symbol for the individual, the label to the invisible presence, all those assumptions fly out the window for a reader like Chong.”

When asked for details about what it’s like living with this exceptional gift, Chong was modest.

“I don’t know. I forget people’s names a lot. Except for my best friends, Chad and Big Brian. But, I don’t know, a lot of times if I look at someone’s face, I’m like, ‘Yeah, I think I’ve seen them before.’ It just hits me,” Chong said.

Neuroscience professor Ernold Mavewick said he believed Chong’s remarkable facial recognition was just the tip of the iceberg.

“When individuals exhibit exceptional abilities, it’s rare for it to be just a single odd characteristic or enhanced skill; there’s typically a series of related unusual traits,”



GRAPHIC BY BEAN MCQUEEN

Chong, trying to discover any other peculiar qualities or skills, and I believe that he may differ from most of us in the way that he experiences hunger and satiety, as well as links between different sensory stimuli.”

“Yeah, I told Mavewick some other cool stuff about me,” Chong said. “Like if I get really high, I can eat half a pizza or more, easy. Also, sometimes when I drink a lot of water my nose sort of tingles.”

While faculty may disagree about the most important implications of Chong’s gift, they can agree on one thing: it is a stroke of luck for all fields of study that this rare individual chose the University of Puget Sound.

## CHWS hates her!

*She never shows up to appointments and is really mean to the staff!*



PHOTO BY ANNA GRAHAM

## Student actually likes the rain

By Lee L. Benbow

Winter in Northern Tacoma is in full effect. The humidity has not been under 50 percent in the past week and the sun hasn’t been seen in months. While most students dread this season of constant moisture, sophomore Hannah Moore actually likes the rain.

Moore is your average Portland native who likes her duke of earl in a mason jar just as much as the next gal, but she also possesses her own, unique tastes. Instead of reaching for her black raincoat at the first sign of rain, she wakes up with a smile, excited to go out and take on her day at the University of Puget Sound.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

“It’s not like I’m special or anything; I just really don’t get why my classmates can’t stand the weather. We knew what we were signing up for when we got here and, surprise, it rains here,” Moore said.

*The Flail* reached out to Moore’s friends to see what it was like being friends with a person who thrives off the dreary winter. Classmate Ellen Portia was quick to speak of Moore’s quirky taste: “Every time I slightly suggest that it is a bummer how the sun isn’t out she appears and quickly reminds me how she actually likes the rain, and it isn’t that bad. Like, I know it could be worse, but allow me to complain about my first-world problems,” Portia said. Other students shrugged it off with a passive-aggressive vibe and had little to say.

Junior Kyle Massey was not one of these students. “She thinks that she is so special for liking the rain. Literally everyone here can tolerate the rain; she does not deserve an award for standing basic weather conditions.” *The Flail* did not appreciate Massey’s tone and promptly ended the interview.

As winter dredges into the darkest and coldest months, *The Flail* wishes Hannah Moore the best with dealing with her #haters and wants her to keep on enjoying the beautiful weather.

## Anti-Vaccine advocate gets the flu

By Lee L. Benbow

Flu season is winding down, but anti-vaccine advocates are just warming up their bragging rights for not getting the flu, or getting over the flu and preparing a Google doc of things to blame the flu on along with conspiracies about the flu shot. *The Flail* took to the Campus Health and Wellness Services (CHWS) waiting room to interview some of the University of Puget Sound’s strongest Anti-Vaxxers.

Junior Mitchell Cyrus spent three weeks in their room with a nasty case of strep throat, sinus infection and cramps. “I did not get the flu. I got an unfortunate case of winter illness, but not the flu. Shout-out to my homeopathic remedies and essential oils!” Cyrus said. Not all who went without the vaccine were as lucky. First-year Kate Cadott caught a nasty strain and had to miss both of her RDG dance practices in one week. “I know I got the flu this year, but the vaccine was only 2 percent effective and gave off hecka bad vibes,” Cadott said while online shopping for a new essential

oil diffuser.

The flu affects enough Americans every year, and with new information coming out about the vaccine, students often don’t know what to believe. But fear not: Anti-Vaxxers are here to set the record straight. Senior Elizabeth Perry, who prides herself on never having received a shot, is passionate on the education of the evils of vaccines. “One time, my cousin looked at a flu shot and got the flu. It wasn’t even in person; he literally just saw a stock photo of a syringe on a local news show and got sick,” Perry said. *The Flail* didn’t know whether or not to believe Perry, but she felt like a reliable source.

As flu season comes to a close, memories of sneezing, coughing and being frightened of shaking hands with the wrong person fade away, most students will return their focus to class or a new Netflix original. However Anti-Vaxxers are not most students. They have just begun to investigate the vaccine for the 2019 flu.



# Buddhism for Black America?: Charles Johnson calls for new insurgence of old ideas in Swope lecture

*“The New Middle Passage: Mindfulness in Black America” took on a surprisingly spiritual theme in accordance with the darkness surrounding life as a person of color in the United States*

By Evan Welsh

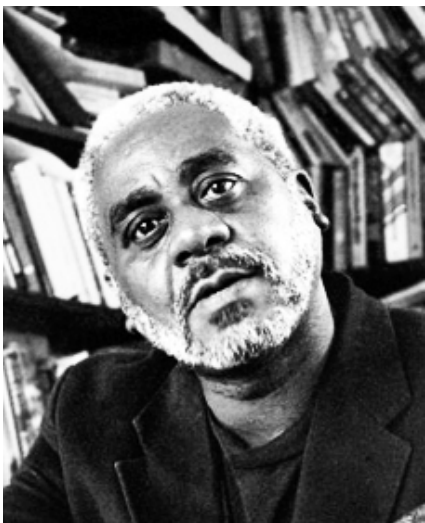


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

When Charles Johnson, a National Book Award winner, approached the podium to give this semester’s Swope lecture, few in the audience seemed to know exactly what his talk would be about. The program read, “The New Middle Passage: Mindfulness and Black America,” a title that gives only vague clues toward the lecture’s topic. Fortunately for the audience, the title of the lecture was the first thing Johnson addressed; “This talk we kind of titled something strange — it could

equally be called, ‘Why Buddhism for Black America now?’ or, if you like, ‘Why Buddhism for America now?’” Johnson said. Ultimately the use of the word “mindfulness” in the lecture’s title is more significant in Johnson’s thesis than it might have seemed on first glance. Johnson offered Buddhism as a way of finding comfort within oneself and stronger unity with others, without ever creating a strict guideline to how to practice Buddhism. “The Buddhist experience is simply the human experience,” Johnson said. The lecture from there on focused on the Buddhist Dharma and the effects of its practice. Johnson stressed early in the lecture how the practice of Buddhism could help mentally effect positive change in African Americans in this moment in history. Now is a time that sees African Americans as successful as they’ve ever been while also still combatting the fervent racism and systematic oppression that has held their culture back for so long. “If we want them to survive in the global knowledge-driven economies of the 21st century, I’m convinced he 2,600-year-old Dharma of Buddhism must be part of that conversation,” Johnson said. Johnson believes that African Americans, especially young African American males, can fall

victim to traps set by social and economic standing. He is concerned that young African Americans might see themselves as “angry Black males,” perpetuating a vile and racist narrative that will only lead to more violence and oppression of African Americans in the U.S. To break the cycle, Johnson proposed following the teachings of the Buddha and the practice of meditation as a way for young African Americans to free themselves of a damaging mindset. Johnson presented Buddhism less as a religion than as a practice of centering oneself in the world as a means to obtain a more peaceful society. One particular problem that Johnson identified in our current mindset is egotistical attachment, the attachment to things that will eventually disappear. Johnson said that Buddhists only attach a name to their faith because they operate in a label-driven world. The goal of peace as a lifestyle, as Johnson sees it, revolves around becoming a “follower of the Dharma” — doing one’s best to let go and be free. “I was very grateful for his passion for Buddhism, his ability to engage a wide range of Buddhist teachers, traditions and disciplines, and see them in a contextual, particular manner in the experiences of Black America,” Dave Wright, University Chaplain and

chair of the Swope Endowed Lectures Committee, said. The Swope Lecture looks to bring speakers to the University of Puget Sound campus to engage in dialogue about faith and values in society. “We have only had a handful of Swope lecturers who specifically engage Buddhism, and his particular engagement connecting race with Buddhist practice was particularly appealing,” Wright said. Johnson’s proposed “spiritual revolution” begins with the freeing of one’s mind, finding peace with oneself and letting go of the ego and damaging mindset that many young African Americans fall into. This inner peace, created by practicing meditation and Buddhist Dharma, hypothetically leads to more peaceful interactions with others, even in a society that is “soaked in violence,” Johnson said. On its face, much of this can seem overly optimistic and ideological, particularly in a time filled with such great pessimism. But maybe writing it off as overly optimistic is part of the problem, and in a time for African Americans that Johnson described early in his lecture as “the best of times and the worst of times,” it is worth taking a chance on letting go of attachments to ego and the finite and living a lifestyle of peace.

## Movies & T.V. to shatter the ‘grand illusion’ of our oh-so-fragile reality

By Parker Barry

Sometimes I watch “The Office” for the seventh time, and then sometimes I consume media to experience the singular eternal consciousness of the world. I watch things to be metaphorically dangled over an abyss that Nietzsche claims will eventually stare back at me if I don’t break eye contact. This is what I call using movies and T.V. to “shatter the grand illusion,” which basically means to question one’s reality. To help start a dialogue of existential dread within your (10 to 11 pound) head I have compiled a list of films and television series. There is no particular order to this list because I have no right to arrange them by excellence. I can only send you on your journey to experiencing the infinite, or the oceanic feeling, or the abyss.

### “True Detective” Season One

Firstly, it stars Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson. The series is written by Nic Pizzolatto, who took an entire 10 years to write season one and whose blood runs swollen with ichor. This show pushes you to accept how meaningless and toxic humanity is. It points out the terrifying realization that maybe consciousness was a horrific accident caused by evolution. It also denies all of this by the end of the season and, of course, has an incredible narrative arc that made me weep over the creative genius of humanity.

### “Waking Life”

A movie directed by the amazing Richard Linklater, filmed in live action and then animated over. Richard Linklater also directed “Before Sunrise,” “Boyhood,” “School of Rock,” and “Dazed and Confused.” “Waking Life” is nauseating both to watch and to process. Both visually and conceptually you are being continuously drowned in stimulation. The plot of the movie is nothing close to linear; it is basically just a string of philosophical conversations. This movie stars Ethan Hawke, whose grotesque goatee can be overlooked due to the animation.

### “A Scanner Darkly”

Another film directed by Richard Linklater, it takes place in the near future where the United States has basically lost the war on drugs. It is filmed the same way as “Waking Life” — live action with animation added. It stars the ageless American treasure, and arguably the messiah incarnate: Keanu Reeves. The film also features Woody Harrelson, Robert Downey Jr. and Winona Ryder. Reeves plays an undercover cop that gets mixed up with drugs and begins to lose his sense of identity.

### “Synecdoche, New York”

Directed by Charlie Kaufman — the same director as “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” and “Being John Malkovich.” I could not begin to tell you what this movie is about or how it even works as a film. I can tell you that this movie covers all of my greatest fears: being deathly ill and no one caring, going insane and no one noticing or showing interest and time functioning improperly without anyone fearing the repercussions. Honestly, everyone should watch this film just because it throws every cliché out the window and feels unrecognizable when

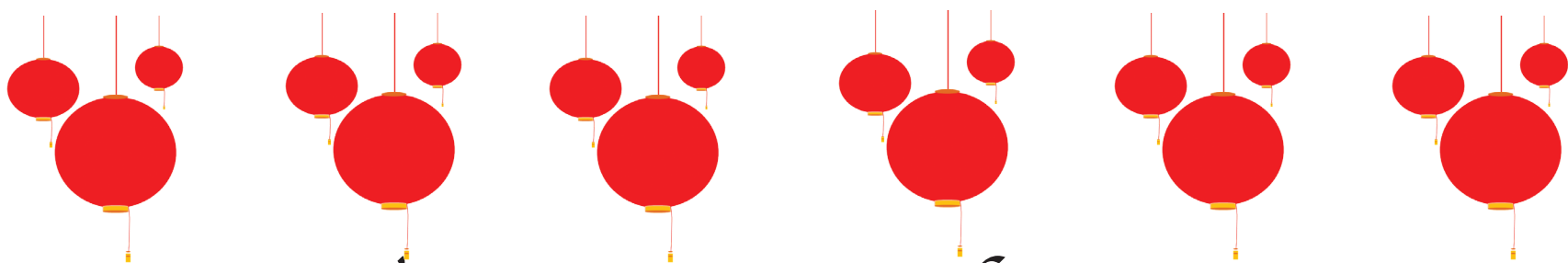
compared to other films.

### “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus”

Heath Ledger actually died while in the middle of filming “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus” — it was the last film he acted in before his death. This film also stars Johnny Depp and Andrew Garfield. “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus” grapples mainly with the tensions between good and evil but also the key to happiness. This film fills you with disgust over the deep human desire of “wanting” — whether that is emotional want or the want of worldly possessions. It is also extremely trippy and has beautiful CGI.

*If you would like to watch any movies or T.V. shows that make you wildly uncomfortable or have any recommendations for me or want any recommendations from me or you just want to hang out in general email me at ppbarry@pugetsound.edu*





# Tacoma Lunar New Year

By Brynn Svenningsen

On a small stage set at the intersection of Yakima Avenue and S 38th Street, a young karate student walked to center stage to perform a progression of his martial art moves. The student was said to be eight years old and have a real talent for someone of his age. After his solo performance, other karate students who train at the Asia Pacific Culture Center joined him and showcased their talent. This Okinawa Arts Karate team was one of many who performed at the annual Tacoma Lunar New Year Festival that occurred on Feb. 18.

The festival aims to welcome the arrival of a new lunar year and is one in a slew of New Year events that occurred since the start of the celebrations on Feb. 16. As the Chinese Zodiac moves in a 12-year cycle, the arrival of the new year means it's time to say a sad goodbye to the year of the rooster and

a warm hello to the year of the dog. According to Newsweek.com, those born in the year of the dog will be extremely loyal to friends and family and will be popular in social circles. If looking for a friend it may be worth a look for someone born in 2006, 1994, or even 1982 in the past years of the dog.

In addition to the focus on the Chinese Zodiac in the festival, there was a great focus on continuing the popular traditions of the festival. It kicked off with a dragon dance and sprinkling of confetti all over the block within the Lincoln Financial District where the festival was set. The dance continued along to the end of the block and was applauded by the festivalgoers. The festival organizers gave speeches and the first performance of the day, Variya, a traditional dance from Thailand, continued the celebrations.

The karate performance, as well as the rest of the festival, was slightly hindered by the weather. The snow that arrived that morning and the continuing rain, and then hail, made the amount of performers smaller. It also made the outdoor festival a little more difficult to navigate but ultimately showed the perseverance and dedication of those involved. The students from the Okinawa Arts Karate team were not fazed in the slightest and shared their karate skills with gusto.

The arrival of the new lunar year holds a great importance worldwide and resonates within multiple cultures. In addition to having performances that drew on Asian heritage, there were performances that represented other ones. One of these performers was by Esplendor Mexicano and shared a traditional Hispanic style dance. The performance

consisted of group dance by multiple dancers. They dressed in vibrant traditional costumes and worked well in the collaborative routine. The highlight of the Esplendor Mexicano performance was the stunning and emotionally jarring finale of "the dance of the sombrero." The dance was performed between a male dancer and a female one and ended with the precarious throwing of a sombrero and a dramatic dip of the female dancer.

University of Puget Sound student Sarah Manoar was especially excited by this dance performance.

"I appreciated that they were so dedicated to this festival even when the weather was so crazy! The weather didn't stop them from performing so well and it made the festival so interesting," Manoar said.

The celebration of Chinese New Year also occurred on

campus. On the second floor of Wyatt, there is a display celebrating Chinese New Year. It features traditional decorations, including flowers, which are seen as extremely important in Chinese households. Within the display there is also Chinese poetry. One poem specifically is called "A Night-Mooring near Maple Bridge," which when translated speaks of a crow's caw and a midnight bell. This on-campus display offers a great opportunity to celebrate Chinese New Year if you missed the festival.

The lunar new year festival shared classic traditional lunar new year events and was greatly important to many who attended. It showcased the diversity in the performance pieces that could be shared and gave way to a fun and very friendly atmosphere all while heralding the new lunar year!

## Trying to find something to gain from a night of losses at Emerald Queen

A cautionary tale for the curious by  
Matthew Gulick

At the Emerald Queen (EQ) Casino I-5 location, cold rain falls in scattered drops across the packed parking lot, across which towers the green and yellow electronic marquee. Content warning: Elitist/judgmental language ahead.

I have decided to write about the casino simply because I had passed the place one too many times driving north out of Tacoma. Prior to this excursion I had never set foot in a casino, let alone EQ, so it was high time to find out what "The Entertainment Capital of the Northwest," site of performances from Queen Latifah, Larry the Cable Guy and Boyz II Men, had to offer.

Due to my lack of casino experience, I turned to the EQ website (emeraldqueen.com) to gather necessary intel before making an appearance. From the page I'd learned to expect suave, young and stock-model-status attractive clientele. Unfortunately I did not apply the proper filter of cynicism to this promise and switched out my hoodie for a red checkered button down. Perhaps this is a result of watching "Casino Royale" too many times. I have almost certainly watched "Casino Royale" too many times. In any case, the first individual I saw while surveying the place from the safety of my car appeared far more comfortable than myself in their hoodie and pajama pants, attire which

proved the rule rather than exception. This fact inspired a fun combination of jealousy and self-consciousness.

Circling the casino once, I discovered that it's a long, low structure consisting of one permanent building near the highway and a line of semi-permanent tents extending away from the road. It does not offer one main entrance. I parked in a spot up the hill with a commanding view of the countryside. Though confused and unsure where to enter, I headed for what I thought would make the most sense — the door closest to I-5. A bouncer man waited for me there. After quickly requesting my identification, he pulled open the tinted glass door and ushered me inside with a disappointing lack of fanfare. With no warning, I found myself plunged into a twilight world of flashing lights, cigarette smoke and various stimulating machine noises. Inside it felt like a wide windowless hallway, an alternate reality where time and money cease to exist.

I learned that gamblers conduct games either in chips at the tables or credits on the slots. One cent equals one credit, not that hard to understand. Speaking from experience, however, the mental math required to reframe 2,000 credits in terms of \$20.00 still distances players from their money, making it

all too easy to part with.

I'd heard the fun fact that casinos don't have clocks or windows so people don't recognize the passage of time, but it still came as a surprise when I checked my phone and 45 minutes had passed while wandering the premises getting my bearings. EQ's lack of windows probably isn't that disorienting however. It was gray when I entered and gray when I left, and since we currently live in what feels like a state of perpetual darkness I'm not sure what glancing outside to discover the sun had set would do for anyone.

You might suspect this clock-based time-banishing strategy is now foiled by ubiquitous smartphones, but in the course of my wanderings I didn't see one person checking a handheld device. Not once. People's eyes remained glued to their chosen machines. I noticed little conversation between players.

I'd also heard the fun fact that casinos offer free drinks to encourage lowered inhibitions,

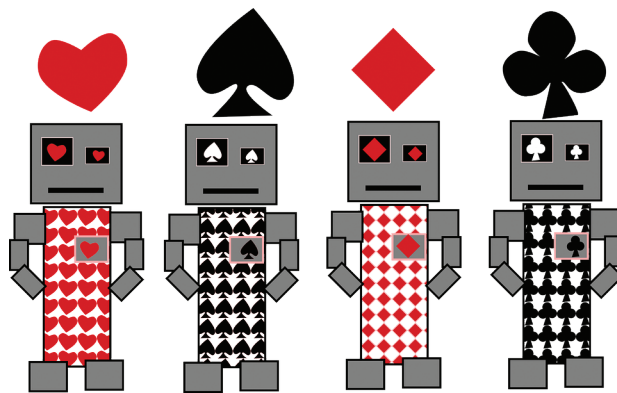


PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

but unfortunately this is not the case at EQ where the lowest potential bet on a spin is 30 cents. They do offer free coffee and soda in tiny Styrofoam cups, a fact which I filed away in case I was ever in need of free caffeine on my way north, but I learned from the bouncer that people aren't the only thing they bounce — these drinks are to remain strictly on premises. Upon leaving, wanting to keep the cup as some tangible object to take away from my time inside and prove it wasn't all a fever dream, I sat down at one of many slot machines to chug my coffee. Unfortunately after showing the bouncer my dutifully empty cup I learned that yes, even the styrofoam must remain inside the building.

In addition to sexy 20-somethings, the website had promised to "launch [my] expectations into the stratosphere" because the I-5 location is home to "1,640 dynamic video slots including Progressive Jackpot machines."

This second pledge proved far more accurate.

Here is a list of a mere fraction of slot machine titles: Lucky Larry's Lobstermania I, Majestic Sea, Paradise Moon, Coyote Moon, Wolf Run, Peacock Magic, Lucky Larry's Lobstermania II, Goddess of the Realm (Flame Star or Moon Stone Editions), Empress of Time, Pharaoh's Fortune, Triple Fortune Dragon, Dangerous Beauty 1 & 2, Icarus the Journey and Lucky Larry's Lobstermania III.

EQ does offer Vegas-style table gaming but the slots proved more popular by far. I hovered behind a game of Spanish 21, which I thought meant blackjack conducted in Spanish, but upon hearing the dealer speaking English I learned it was something else entirely. Worried that players might consider this over-the-shoulder hovering rude I didn't stay long enough to learn what was going on. As the youngest gambler there by far I felt I already drew too much attention to myself, and therefore did not want to accidentally break any casino social mores like "don't creepily hang around watching people put money on the line."

To make a long story short, I lost \$20 making 30-cent bets on an assortment of slots (mainly Larry's Lobstermania III) in roughly two hours. I have no idea what I gained from this experience.

Want to know more? Find it out at emeraldqueen.com.